

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

A. Remarks.

Claims 1, 3, and 7 - 25 are pending in this application. Claim 26 is objected to. Claims 1, 3, and 10-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by Deutsch et al. U.S. Patent No. 4,340,617. Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Deutsch et al. '617 in view of Marcus, U.S. Patent No. 5,017,317 and further in view of Amako et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,497,254. Claims 9, and 18-24 stand rejected under 103(a) as being unpatentable over Deutsch et al. '617 in view of Maxwell et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,786,023. Claim 8 stands rejected under 103(a) as being unpatentable over Deutsch et al. '617 in view of Marcus '317 and further in view of Amako et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,497,254. Claim 17 stands rejected under 103(a) as being unpatentable over Deutsch et al. '617 in view of Amako et al. '254. Claim 25 stands rejected under 103(a) as being unpatentable over Deutsch et al. '617 in view of Maxwell '023 and further in view of Amako et al., '254. Claim 8 stands objected to, but was found to be allowable if rewritten into independent form to include all limitations of the base claim and intervening claims.

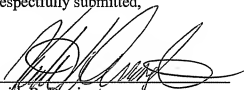
B. Response

Claim 7, from which allowable claim 8 is dependent, is being amended with this paper to include all limitations of claim 8, claim 8 is being cancelled. Independent claims 1 and 9 are being amended to include the elements for which claim 8 was found allowable. As such, claims 1, 7, and 9 are in allowable form and applicant respectfully requests an early allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that the foregoing response is full, complete, and timely filed. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the instant application in light of the foregoing response and amendments. Should the Examiner have any questions, comments or suggestions in furtherance of the prosecution of the application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's representative by telephone or fax.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: February 5th, 2009

Keith R. Derrington
Registration No. 44,061
BRACEWELL & GIULIANI LLP
P.O. Box 61389
Houston, Texas 77208-1389
Telephone: (713) 221-1515
Facsimile: (713) 437-5320
Email: ron.derrington@bgllp.com
Attorneys for Applicants